States of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh at the BPL rates for the affected people. As against this, 9.51 lakh tonnes of foodgrains was lifted, which is 69% of the quantity allotted. The State-wise details are indicated below:—

STATE	FOODGRAINS (In lakh onnes)	
	Quantity allotted	Quantity lifted
Rajasthan	5.26	3.58
Gujarat	4.19	1.41
Andhra Pradesh	4.36	4.51

(c) Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) was released to these States during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001. In addition, assistance was provided during 1999-2000 from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) in the wake of drought. Details are indicated below:—

(Rs. in crore)

STATE	Calamity Relief Fund		National Fund for Calamity Relief Assistance	
	1999-2000	2000-2001	demanded	released
Rajasthan	155.25	168.18	1144.40	102.93
Gujarat	121.05	131.14	722.16	54.58
Andhra Pradesh	107.69	77.78	720.36	75.36

Grievances of Fishermen

1245. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fishermen all over the country are up in arms against Government's plan to import fish; and

(b) if so, the details and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Fishermen under the banner of National Fish Workers' forum had submitted a memorandum which *inter-alia* included stoppage of Import of Fish as one of their demands.

(b) The fear that the import of fish will adversely effect the local fishing industry is misplaced. The total import duty on fish, Crustaceans etc. has been raised from 21.16% to 44.04% w.e.f. 1.4.2000 and this in itself acts as a deterrent on large scale imports. Currently, the import of fish is limited, and is generally meant for processing for re-export. The processing infrastructure available in the country is utilized to the extent of about 20 per cent only, and hence the current import of fish encourages employment generation, and higher export earnings.

Profit to farmers

†1246. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the farmers do not get sufficient profit for their produce even now;

(b) if so, whether Government are going to implement some new agriculture policy to help the farmers get proper profit for their produce;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) National Agriculture Policy has been placed on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 28th July, 2000.

(d) Does not arise.

Modernisation in vegetable production

1247. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Maharashtra State is facing shortage of vegetables resulting in its high cost, if so , what steps Government propose to take to modernise the methods of production of vegetables at lesser cost;

(b) whether Government plan to bring such production activities under agro industries to take up production in large scale in Maharashtra; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.